

Dear FCC,

I'm a current AT&T customer, and I don't think that where I am is anything special. I'm here because of a particular phone that serves me well in day-to-day life, not because I think that AT&T has treated me or those I know particularly well.

I implore those at the commission to consider that cellular service is no longer a privilege but a necessity. The telecommunications services provided by the carriers are essential to a healthy democracy and a strong economy. A person who lacks a mobile device can be unawares of the happenings of their nation and world, at a disadvantage to find gainful employment. Less competition could increase prices, leaving the financially disadvantaged even more so.

Also, recent AT&T policy has shown what is in my opinion a desire to stifle use of their networks through data caps in an attempt to avoid necessary reinvestment and expansion in their networks. While such actions do well to serve AT&T shareholders, it leaves me suspicious of what they might do with a commanding market share.

Over such a delicate matter, I have deep reservations about allowing AT&T to grow larger. Their history shows no evidence of restraint or even a strong interest in reinvesting capital in their network infrastructure. Small, nimble companies like T-Mobile and Sprint do well to motivate the larger incumbents of AT&T and Verizon through their innovations in technology and customer service.

Thank you for your time,  
Harlan Kanoa Sheppard, Entrepreneur  
Honolulu Hawaii